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OPERATION:
GALACTIC STORM
PART 10
QUASAR
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
BATTLE BEYOND THE STARS

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

OPERATION: GALACTIC STORM

PART 10

QUASAR

TWO INTERGALACTIC EMPIRES — THE MILITARISTIC KREE AND THE MATRIARCHAL SHI'AR — ARE AT WAR, AND EARTH'S SUN IS THE LOCUS OF THEIR GALAXY-SPANNING ONSLAUGHT. WHILE TWO ENVOYS OF AVENGERS HEAD TOWARDS THE CAPITALS OF EACH EMPIRE, IT'S UP TO THE QUANTUM CRUSADER TO BE EARTH'S TROUBLESHOOTER...

AMONG THE MANY UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA OF THE UNIVERSE ARE **STARGATES**, ACCESS POINTS INTO A SPACE BEYOND SPACE, WHERE EVEN INTERGALACTIC DISTANCES COLLAPSE INTO FEASIBILITY...

INSIDE THE ORBIT OF **MERCURY**, SOME 32 MILLION MILES FROM EARTH'S SUN, IS ONE SUCH STARGATE.

AN ALIEN STARSHIP HAS JUST FLOWN INTO IT, SEEKING QUICK PASSAGE BACK TO THE **SHI'AR EMPIRE**.

TO PREVENT THE STARGATE'S GUARDIANS -- THE COSMIC AVENGER **QUASAR** AND HIS POWERFUL COMPANION **HER** -- FROM THWARTING THE JUMP, THE SHI'AR HAVE DISPATCHED TWO **SUPERHUMAN CHAMPIONS** OF THEIR OWN....!

WHOUGGH! I **FELT** THAT!

WHOEVER THIS SHI'AR IS, HIS BLOWS ARE PUTTING **CRACKS** IN MY QUANTUM-SHIELD.

SPATIAL DELIVERIES

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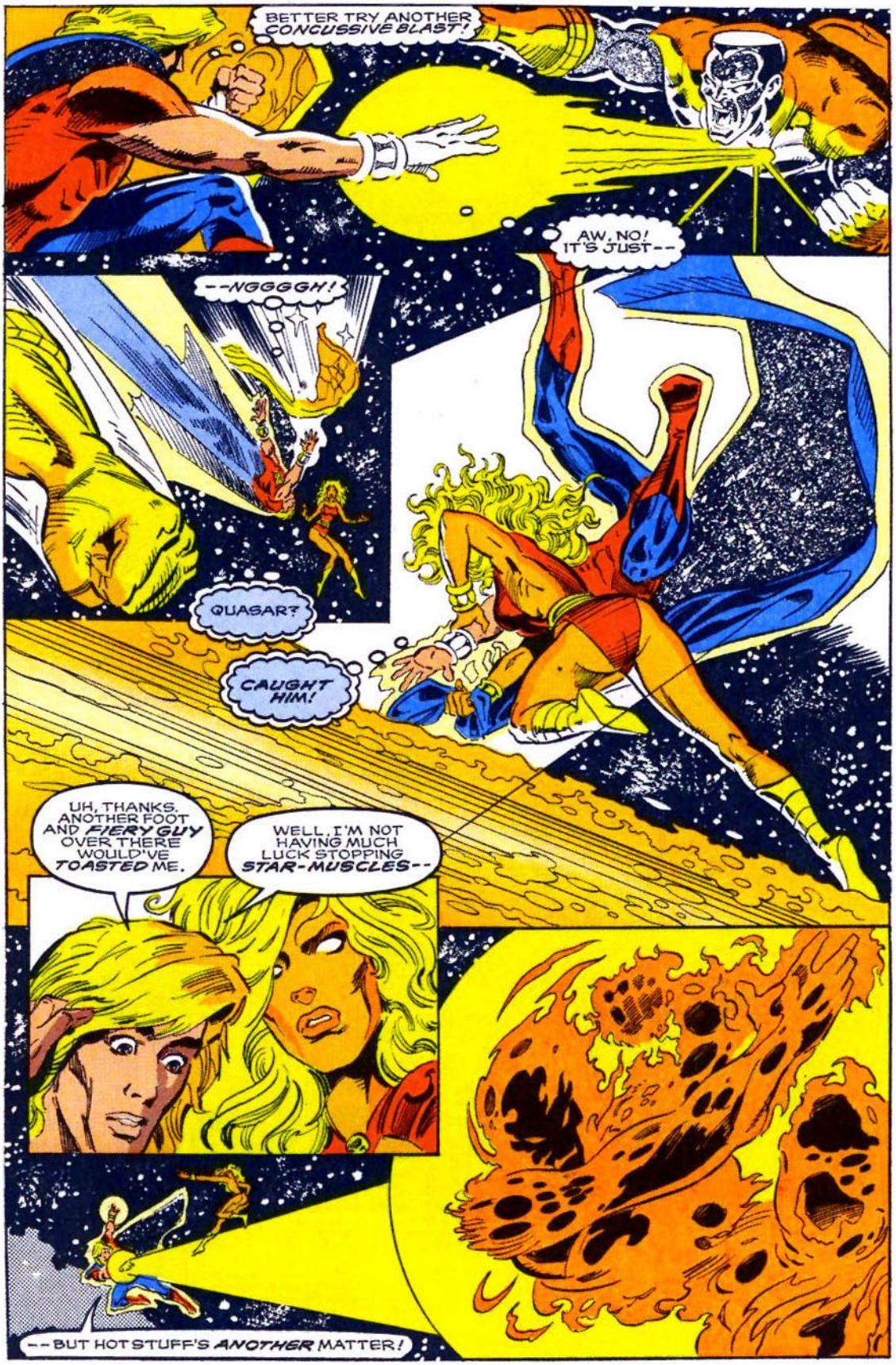
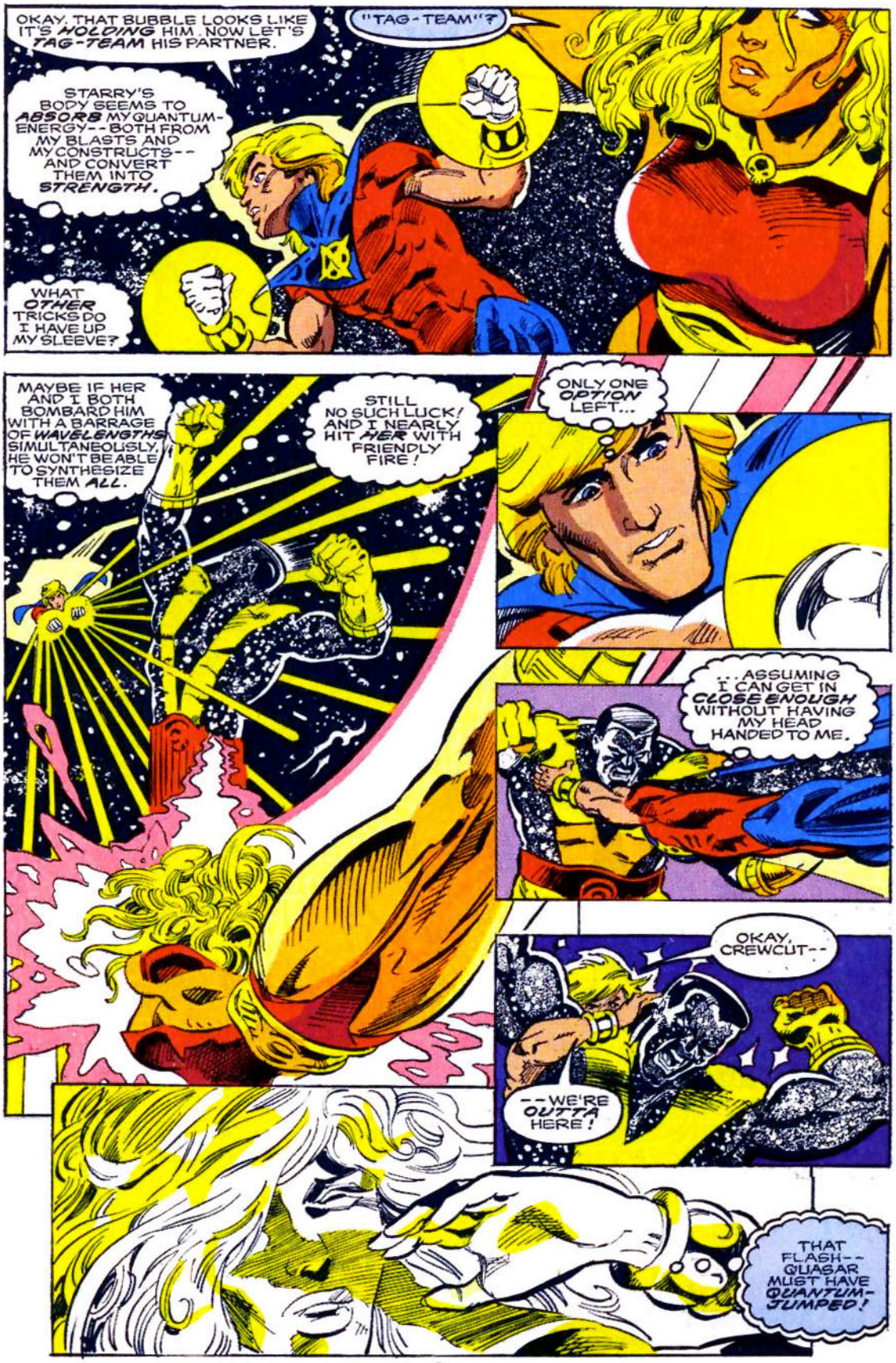
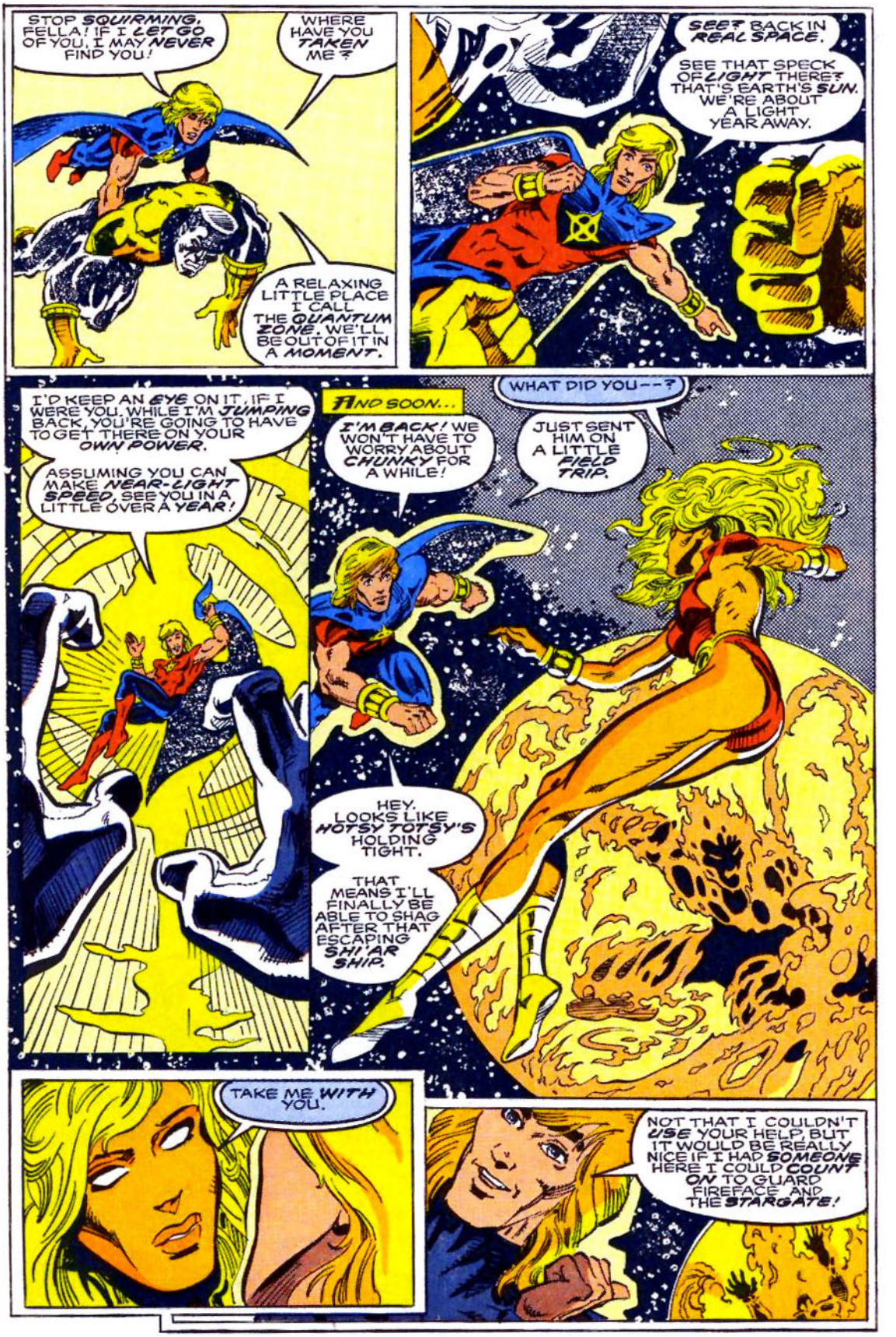

BETTER TRY ANOTHER CONCUSSIVE BLAST!
AW, NO! IT'S JUST--
--NGGGGH!
QUASAR?
CAUGHT HIM!
UH, THANKS. ANOTHER FOOT AND FIERY GUY OVER THERE WOULD'VE TOASTED ME.
WELL, I'M NOT HAVING MUCH LUCK STOPPING STAR-MUSCLES--
--BUT HOT STUFF'S ANOTHER MATTER!


OKAY. THAT BUBBLE LOOKS LIKE IT'S HOLDING HIM. NOW LET'S TAG-TEAM HIS PARTNER.
"TAG-TEAM"?
STARRY'S BODY SEEMS TO ABSORB MY QUANTUM-ENERGY--BOTH FROM MY BLASTS AND MY CONSTRUCTS--AND CONVERT THEM INTO STRENGTH.
WHAT OTHER TRICKS DO I HAVE UP MY SLEEVE?
MAYBE IF HER AND I BOTH BOMBARD HIM WITH A BARRAGE OF WAVELENGTHS SIMULTANEOUSLY, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SYNTHESIZE THEM ALL.
STILL NO SUCH LUCK! AND I NEARLY HIT HER WITH FRIENDLY FIRE!
ONLY ONE OPTION LEFT...
...ASSUMING I CAN GET IN CLOSE ENOUGH WITHOUT HAVING MY HEAD HANDED TO ME.
OKAY, CREWCUT--
--WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
THAT FLASH--QUASAR MUST HAVE QUANTUM-JUMPED!


STOP SQUIRMING, FELLA! IF I LET GO OF YOU, I MAY NEVER FIND YOU!
WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN ME?
A RELAXING LITTLE PLACE I CALL THE QUANTUM ZONE. WE'LL BE OUT OF IT IN A MOMENT.
SEE? BACK IN REAL SPACE.
SEE THAT SPECK OF LIGHT THERE? THAT'S EARTH'S SUN. WE'RE ABOUT A LIGHT YEAR AWAY.
I'D KEEP AN EYE ON IT, IF I WERE YOU. WHILE I'M JUMPING BACK, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET THERE ON YOUR OWN POWER.
ASSUMING YOU CAN MAKE NEAR-LIGHT SPEED, SEE YOU IN A LITTLE OVER A YEAR!
AND SOON...
I'M BACK! WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CHUNKY FOR A WHILE!
WHAT DID YOU--?
JUST SENT HIM ON A LITTLE FIELD TRIP.
HEY, LOOKS LIKE HOTSY TOTSY'S HOLDING TIGHT.
THAT MEANS I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO SHAG AFTER THAT ESCAPING SHI'AR SHIP.
TAKE ME WITH YOU.
NOT THAT I COULDN'T USE YOUR HELP, BUT IT WOULD BE REALLY NICE IF I HAD SOMEONE HERE I COULD COUNT ON TO GUARD FIREFACE AND THE STARGATE!

QUASAR TO THE *AVENGERS* VIA THE EIGHT-MINUTE TRANSMISSION DELAY. I'M TAKING OFF TO THE SHI'AR GALAXY IN PURSUIT OF THAT *SHIP*. *HER* WILL REMAIN AT THE STARGATE. QUASAR *OUT!*

THANKS, HER. BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN! HANG *IN* THERE.

COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS AHEAD OF QUASAR...

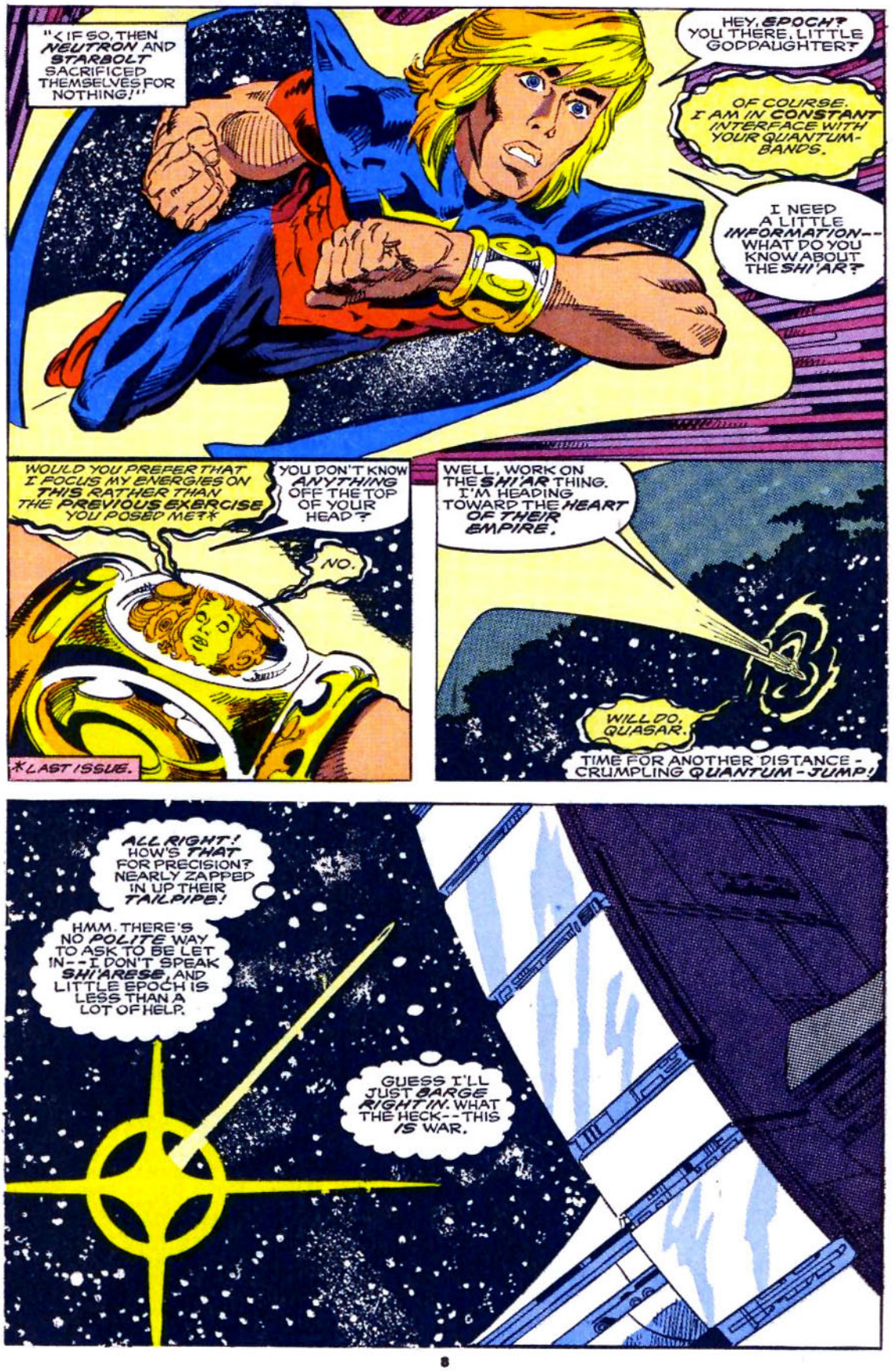
<THAT'S IT, *ELECTRON*. THIS KREE'S BEEN PSYCHICALLY DRAINED OF ALL *STRATEGIC INFORMATION*.>

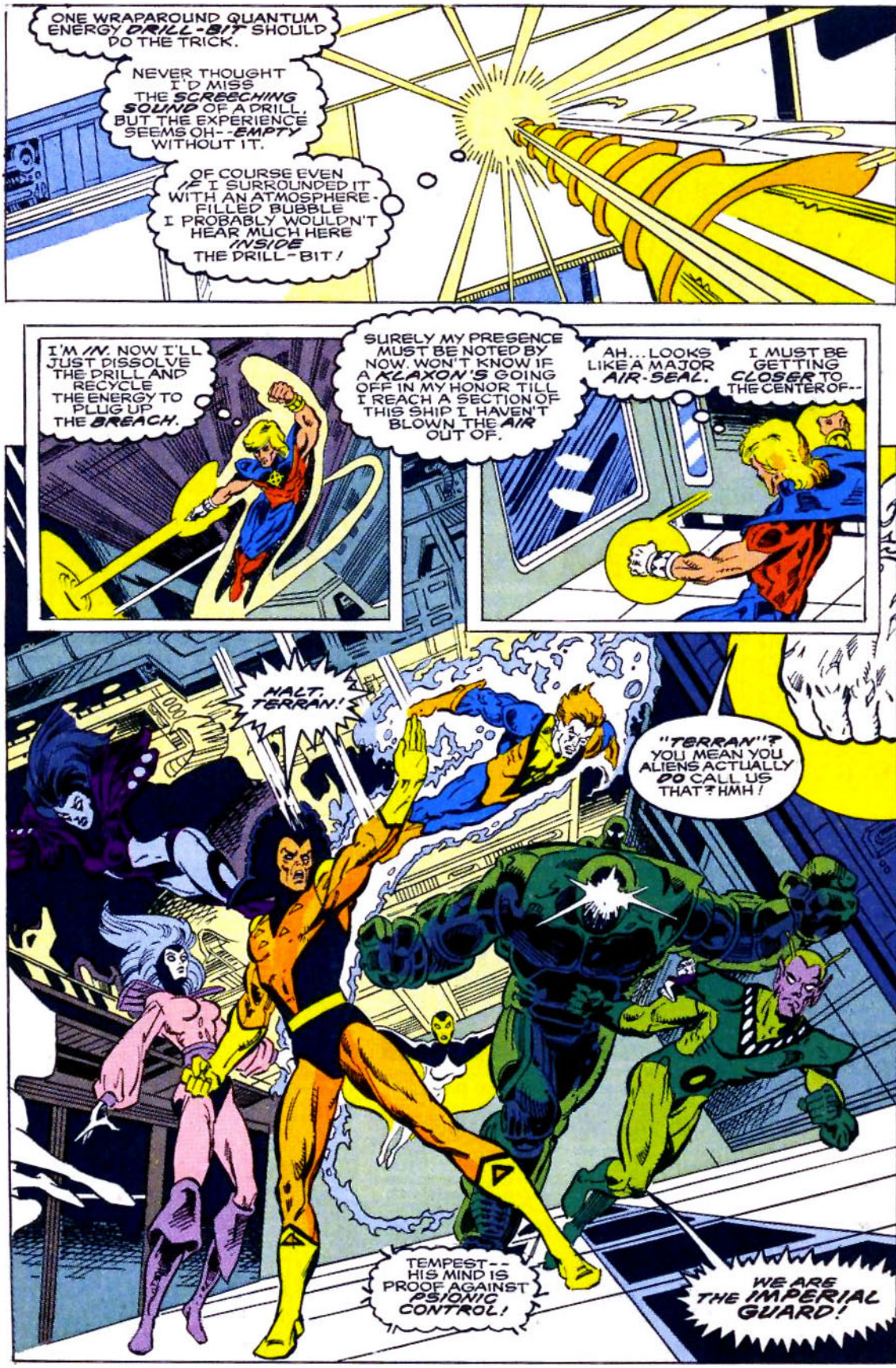
<*NOW* WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?>

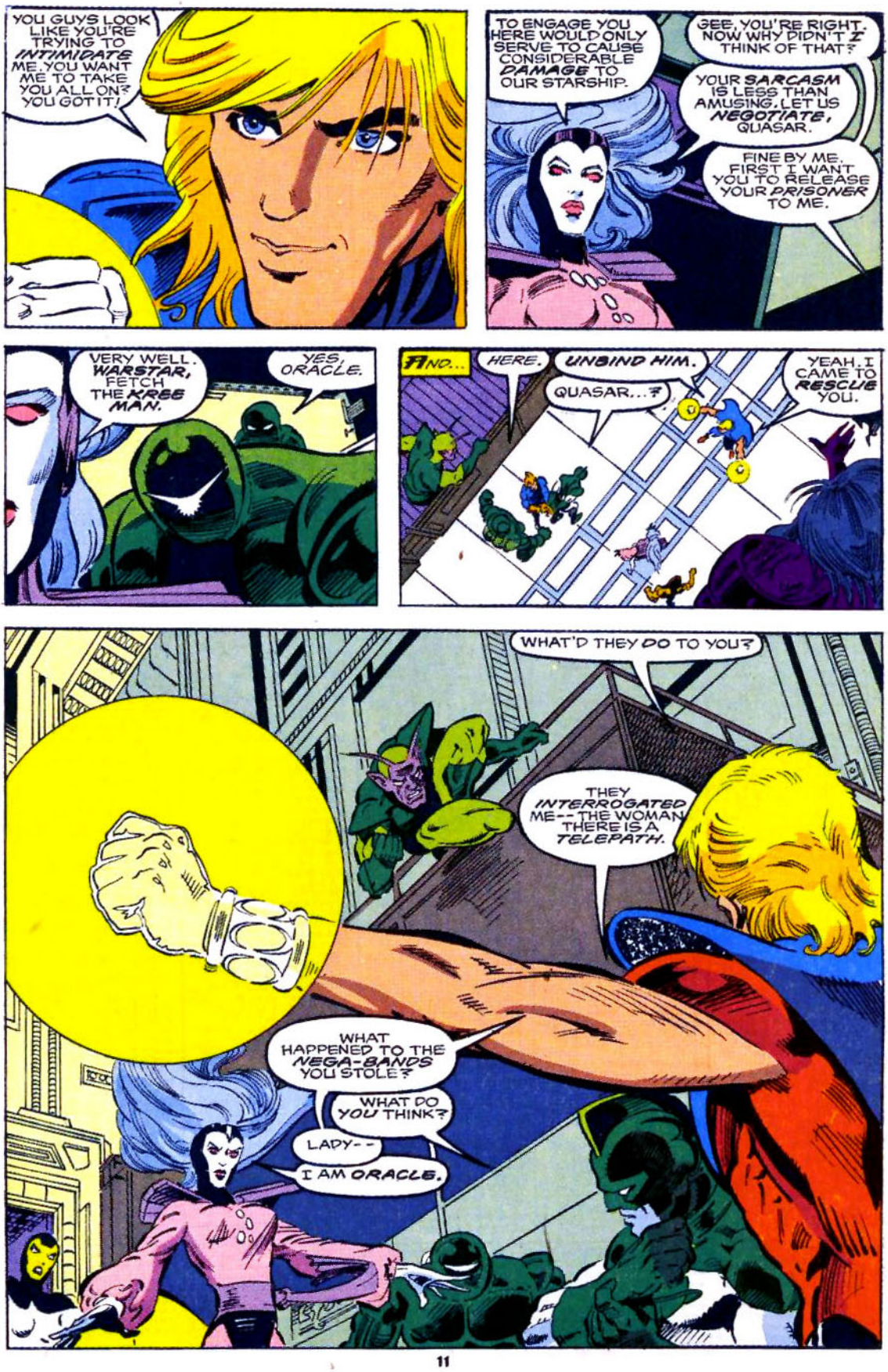
<HE'S A *PRISONER OF WAR*. WE'LL-->

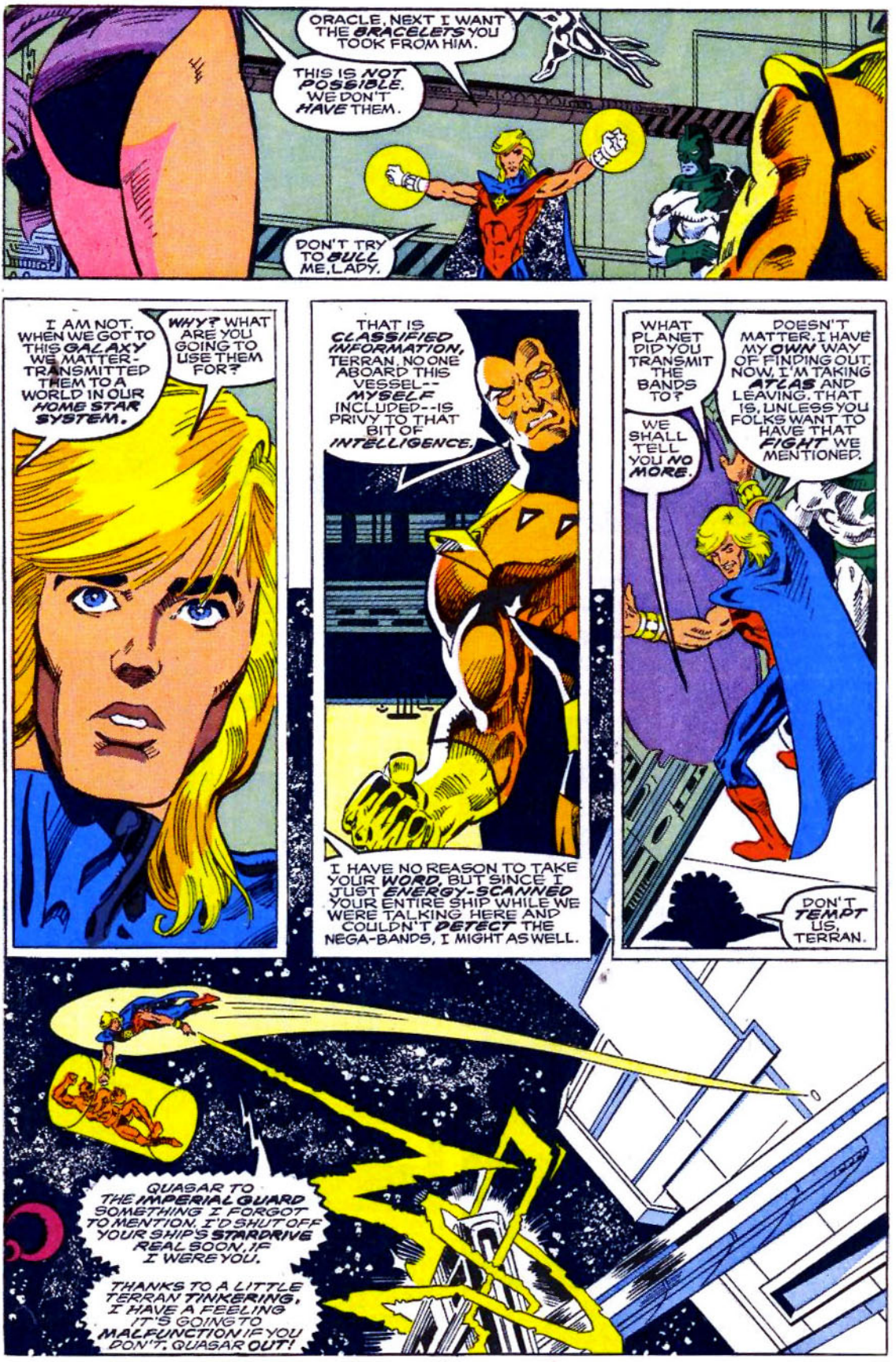
<ATTENTION, IMPERIAL GUARDSMEN! AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT PASSED THROUGH THE STARGATE TEN LIGHT MINUTES BEHIND US!>

<QUASAR?!?>

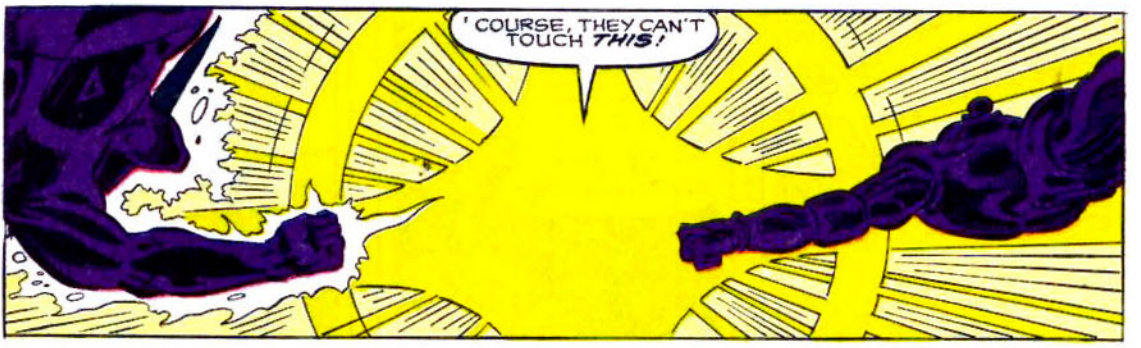

"< IF SO, THEN NEUTRON AND STARBOLT SACRIFICED THEMSELVES FOR NOTHING!"
HEY, EPOCH? YOU THERE, LITTLE GODDAUGHTER?
OF COURSE. I AM IN CONSTANT INTERFACE WITH YOUR QUANTUM-BANDS.
I NEED A LITTLE INFORMATION-- WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SHI'AR?
WOULD YOU PREFER THAT I FOCUS MY ENERGIES ON THIS RATHER THAN THE PREVIOUS EXERCISE YOU POSED ME?*
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OFF THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD?
NO.
*LAST ISSUE.
WELL, WORK ON THE SHI'AR THING. I'M HEADING TOWARD THE HEART OF THEIR EMPIRE.
WILL DO, QUASAR.
TIME FOR ANOTHER DISTANCE-CRUMPLING QUANTUM-JUMP!
ALL RIGHT! HOW'S THAT FOR PRECISION? NEARLY ZAPPED IN UP THEIR TAILPIPE!
HMM. THERE'S NO POLITE WAY TO ASK TO BE LET IN--I DON'T SPEAK SHI'ARESE, AND LITTLE EPOCH IS LESS THAN A LOT OF HELP.
GUESS I'LL JUST BARGE RIGHT IN. WHAT THE HECK--THIS IS WAR.


ONE WRAPAROUND QUANTUM ENERGY DRILL-BIT SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D MISS THE SCREECHING SOUND OF A DRILL, BUT THE EXPERIENCE SEEMS OH--EMPTY WITHOUT IT.
OF COURSE EVEN IF I SURROUNDED IT WITH AN ATMOSPHERE-FILLED BUBBLE I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HEAR MUCH HERE INSIDE THE DRILL-BIT!
I'M IN. NOW I'LL JUST DISSOLVE THE DRILL AND RECYCLE THE ENERGY TO PLUG UP THE BREACH.
SURELY MY PRESENCE MUST BE NOTED BY NOW. WON'T KNOW IF A KLAXON'S GOING OFF IN MY HONOR TILL I REACH A SECTION OF THIS SHIP I HAVEN'T BLOWN THE AIR OUT OF.
AH... LOOKS LIKE A MAJOR AIR-SEAL.
I MUST BE GETTING CLOSER TO THE CENTER OF--
HALT, TERRAN!
"TERRAN"? YOU MEAN YOU ALIENS ACTUALLY DO CALL US THAT? HMH!
TEMPEST-- HIS MIND IS PROOF AGAINST PSIONIC CONTROL!
WE ARE THE IMPERIAL GUARD!

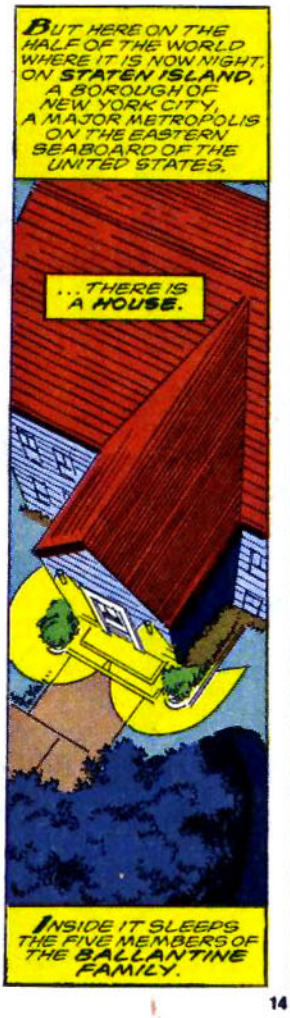

YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ME. YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU ALL ON? YOU GOT IT!
TO ENGAGE YOU HERE WOULD ONLY SERVE TO CAUSE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO OUR STARSHIP.
GEE, YOU'RE RIGHT. NOW WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?
YOUR SARCASM IS LESS THAN AMUSING. LET US NEGOTIATE, QUASAR.
FINE BY ME. FIRST I WANT YOU TO RELEASE YOUR PRISONER TO ME.
VERY WELL. WARSTAR, FETCH THE KREE MAN.
YES, ORACLE.
FIND...
HERE.
UNBIND HIM.
QUASAR...?
YEAH. I CAME TO RESCUE YOU.
WHAT'D THEY DO TO YOU?
THEY INTERROGATED ME -- THE WOMAN THERE IS A TELEPATH.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NEGA-BANDS YOU STOLE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LADY--
I AM ORACLE.


ORACLE, NEXT I WANT THE BRACELETS YOU TOOK FROM HIM.
THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE. WE DON'T HAVE THEM.
DON'T TRY TO BULL ME, LADY.
I AM NOT. WHEN WE GOT TO THIS GALAXY WE MATTER-TRANSMITTED THEM TO A WORLD IN OUR HOME STAR SYSTEM.
WHY? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO USE THEM FOR?
THAT IS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, TERRAN. NO ONE ABOARD THIS VESSEL-- MYSELF INCLUDED--IS PRIVY TO THAT BIT OF INTELLIGENCE.
I HAVE NO REASON TO TAKE YOUR WORD, BUT SINCE I JUST ENERGY-SCANNED YOUR ENTIRE SHIP WHILE WE WERE TALKING HERE AND COULDN'T DETECT THE NEGA-BANDS, I MIGHT AS WELL.
WHAT PLANET DID YOU TRANSMIT THE BANDS TO?
WE SHALL TELL YOU NO MORE.
DOESN'T MATTER. I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF FINDING OUT. NOW, I'M TAKING ATLAS AND LEAVING. THAT IS, UNLESS YOU FOLKS WANT TO HAVE THAT FIGHT WE MENTIONED.
DON'T TEMPT US, TERRAN.
QUASAR TO THE IMPERIAL GUARD SOMETHING I FORGOT TO MENTION. I'D SHUT OFF YOUR SHIP'S STARDRIVE REAL SOON, IF I WERE YOU.
THANKS TO A LITTLE TERRAN TINKERING, I HAVE A FEELING IT'S GOING TO MALFUNCTION IF YOU DON'T. QUASAR OUT!

SO, ATLAS, YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THEY WANT WITH THE NEG--UH-OH.
LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE JUST WAITING FOR ME TO CLEAR THE SHIP BEFORE THEY PRESSED THEIR ATTACK.
TWICKY WASCALS, AREN'T THEY?

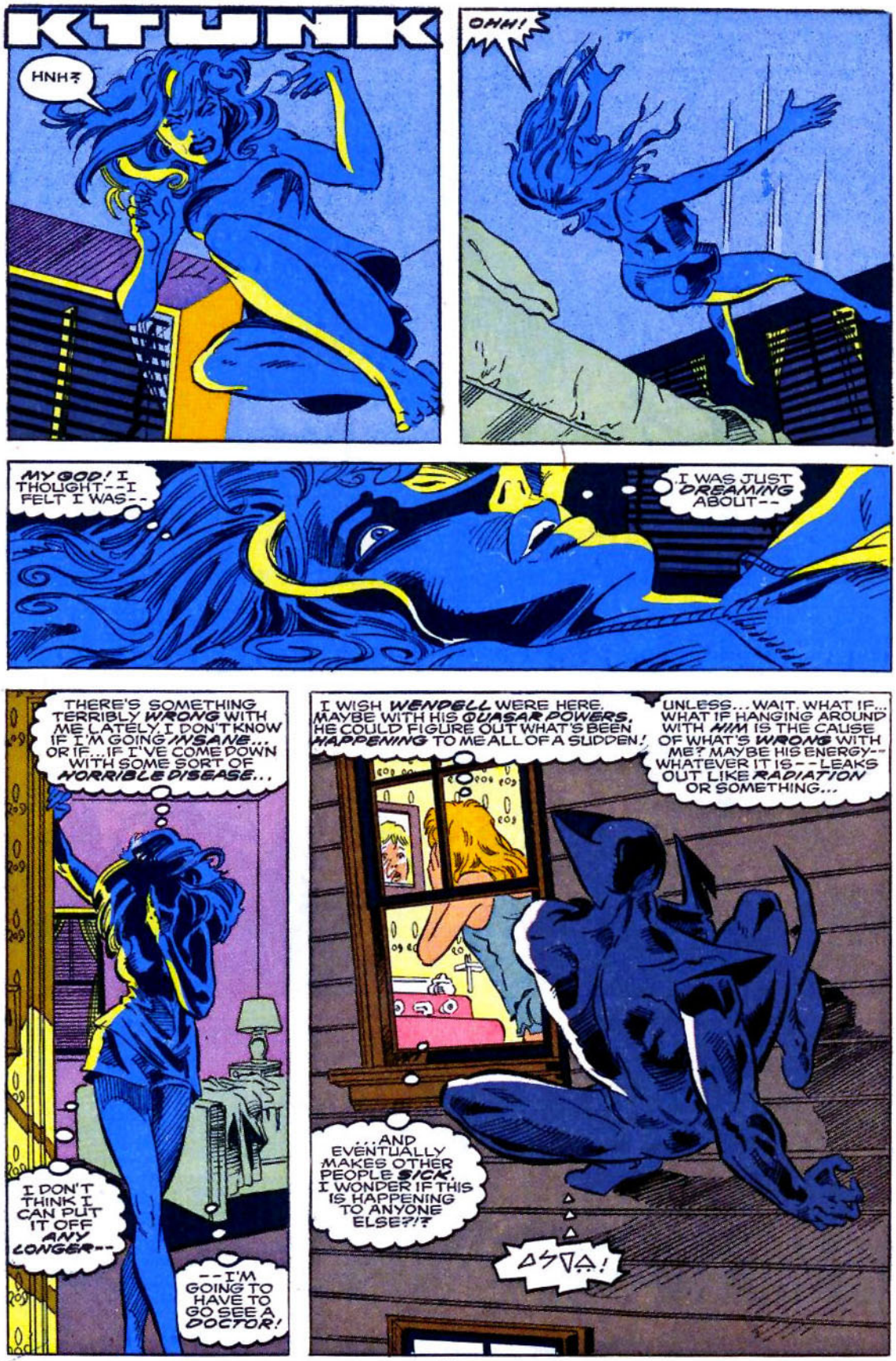

'COURSE, THEY CAN'T TOUCH THIS!

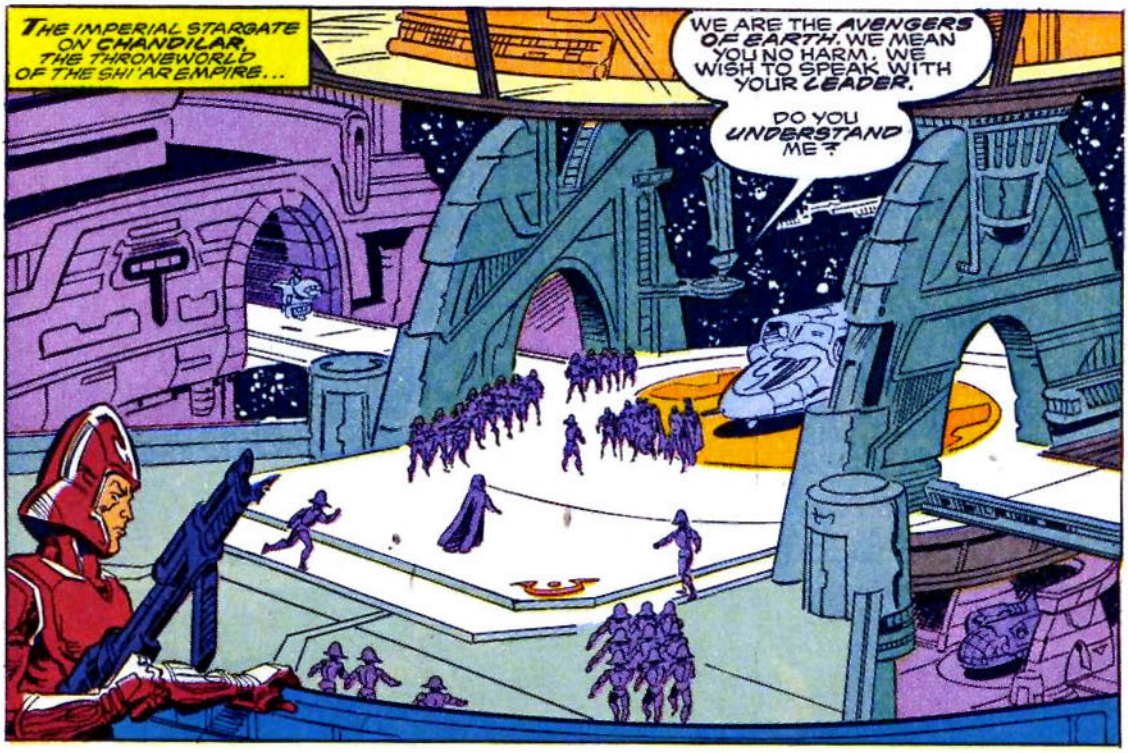
MEANWHILE, ON A PLANET IN A STAR SYSTEM IN A GALAXY FAR REMOVED FROM WHERE QUASAR HAS MADE HIS QUANTUM-JUMP--
--LIFE GOES ON AS USUAL, OBLIVIOUS SO FAR TO THE EVENTS TAKING EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FROM THEIR NATIVE SPHERE.


BUT HERE ON THE HALF OF THE WORLD WHERE IT IS NOW NIGHT, ON STATEN ISLAND, A BOROUGH OF NEW YORK CITY, A MAJOR METROPOLIS ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD OF THE UNITED STATES,
...THERE IS A HOUSE.
INSIDE IT SLEEPS THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BALLANTINE FAMILY.

...THE YOUNGEST WHOM IS KAYLA, WHO HAPPENS TO WORK AS QUASAR'S SECRETARY DURING THE RARE TIMES HE DEVOTES TO HIS SECURITY CONSULTANTS FIRM.
FOR KAYLA, LIFE HAS NOT BEEN GOING ON AS USUAL.
FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, HER BODY SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME A STRANGER TO HER.
HER MUSCLES THROB FOR NO REASON, HER SKIN FEELS TINGLY ALL OVER, SHE SEES AND HEARS STRANGE THINGS THAT ARE NOT THERE, AND THERE'S BEEN A BURNING SENSATION IN THE BACK OF HER NECK.

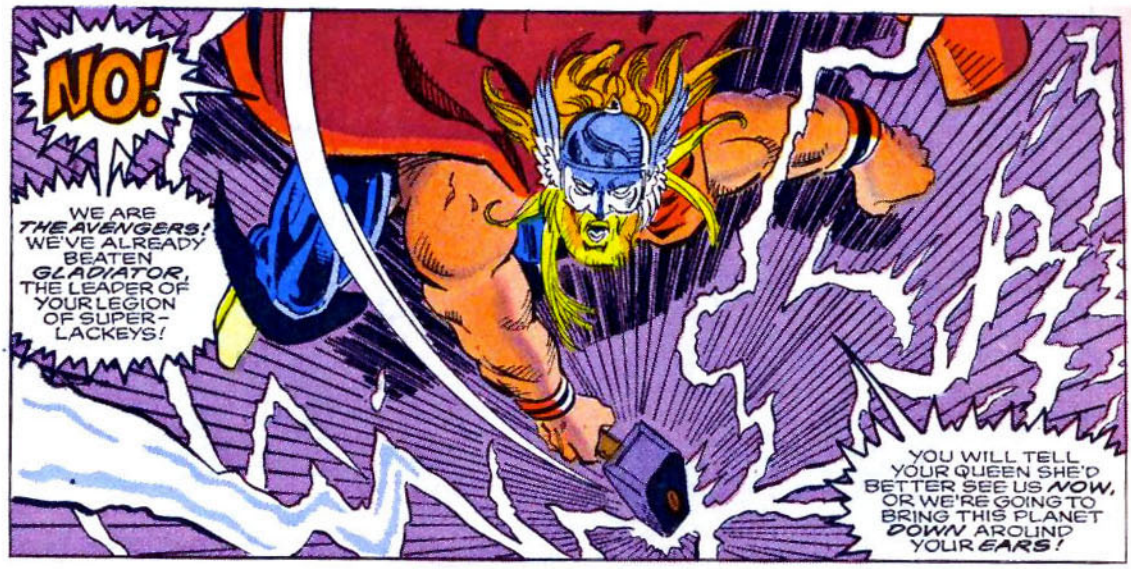
HER DREAMS HAVE ALSO BECOME UNCHARACTERISTICALLY VIVID AND VIOLENT.
NNNNGGGHHH...
SOON, ALL OF THESE AILMENTS WILL SEEM MINOR.


KTUNK
HNH?
OHH!
MY GOD! I THOUGHT--I FELT I WAS--
I WAS JUST DREAMING ABOUT--
THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG WITH ME LATELY. I DON'T KNOW IF I'M GOING INSANE... OR IF...IF I'VE COME DOWN WITH SOME SORT OF HORRIBLE DISEASE...
I DON'T THINK I CAN PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER--
--I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO SEE A DOCTOR!
I WISH WENDELL WERE HERE. MAYBE WITH HIS QUASAR POWERS, HE COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME ALL OF A SUDDEN!
UNLESS...WAIT. WHAT IF... WHAT IF HANGING AROUND WITH HIM IS THE CAUSE OF WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? MAYBE HIS ENERGY-- WHATEVER IT IS--LEAKS OUT LIKE RADIATION OR SOMETHING...
...AND EVENTUALLY MAKES OTHER PEOPLE SICK. I WONDER IF THIS IS HAPPENING TO ANYONE ELSE?!?
ΔSΔ!


THE IMPERIAL STARGATE ON CHANDILAR, THE THRONEWORLD OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE...
WE ARE THE AVENGERS OF EARTH. WE MEAN YOU NO HARM. WE WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOUR LEADER.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

GLAD CAPTAIN MARVEL'S THE SPOKESMAN OF THIS LITTLE ENVOY AND NOT ME. I'M SURE I'D LOSE MY COOL TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH THESE FEATHER-HAIRED ALIENS!
YOU ARE... QUEEN LILANDRA?
NO. I AM THE EMPRESS'S PRIME MINISTER, ARAKI. YOU WILL SEE ME FIRST.
THE EMPRESS IS EXCEEDINGLY BUSY. WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO HER ABOUT?

SIMPLY THIS. YOU ARE EMPLOYING STARGATES NEAR OUR WORLD'S SUN IN ORDER TO TRANSPORT ORDNANCE TO THE KREE GALAXY.
THIS IS DISTURBING OUR SUN, CREATING ABNORMAL SOLAR FLARE AND SUNSPOT ACTIVITY. AS A CONSEQUENCE, ONE OF OUR MANNED SOLAR SATELLITES HAS BEEN DESTROYED* AND WE FEAR THE EARTH ITSELF IS IN GREAT JEOPARDY.
BOTTOM LINE! WE WANT YOU TO PROMISE TO CEASE AND DESIST USING THE STARGATE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. ANY FURTHER USE WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PLANET EARTH AND WILL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY.
HMM! I WILL INFORM THE EMPRESS OF YOUR MESSAGE, AND IF SHE WISHES TO SPEAK TO YOU FURTHER--
*AVENGERS #345.


NO!
WE ARE THE AVENGERS! WE'VE ALREADY BEATEN GLADIATOR, THE LEADER OF YOUR LEGION OF SUPER-LACKEYS!
YOU WILL TELL YOUR QUEEN SHE'D BETTER SEE US NOW, OR WE'RE GOING TO BRING THIS PLANET DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!

RIGHT, GUYS?
UH...
UH...

YEAH!
I SHALL INFORM THE QUEEN OF YOUR BRUTISH THREATS.

WELL, IT DID THE TRICK, DIDN'T IT? HE'S SCURRYING OFF TO FETCH THE QUEEN!
NICE GOING, THOR. EVER THINK ABOUT A CAREER AS A DIPLOMAT?
THANKS FOR BACKING ME UP, WONDERMAN...LIGHTNING.

ELSEWHERE IN CHANDILAR'S SOLAR SYSTEM...

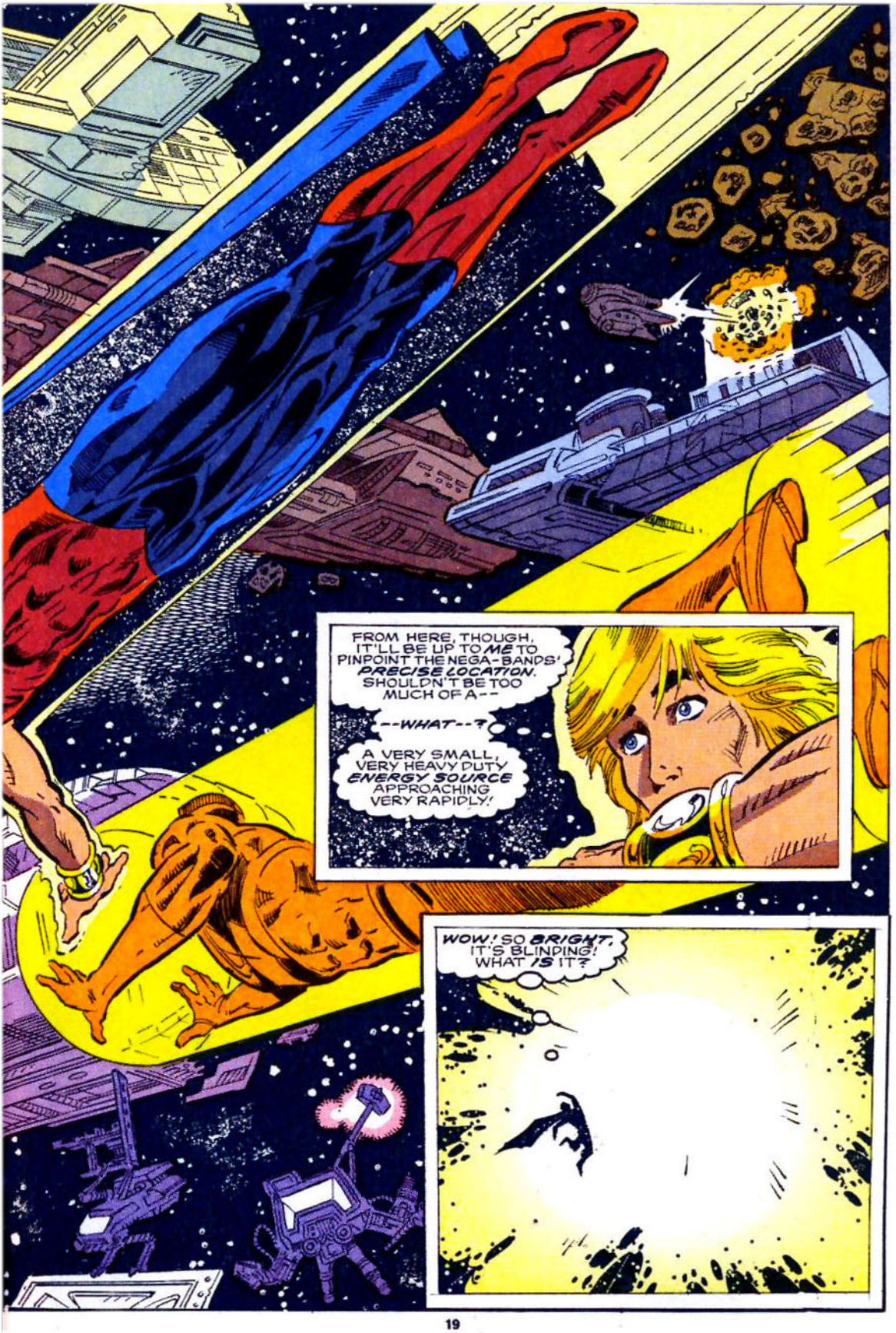
HEY, EPOCH, THIS IS IT-- WHERE THE NEGA-BANDS WERE TAKEN?

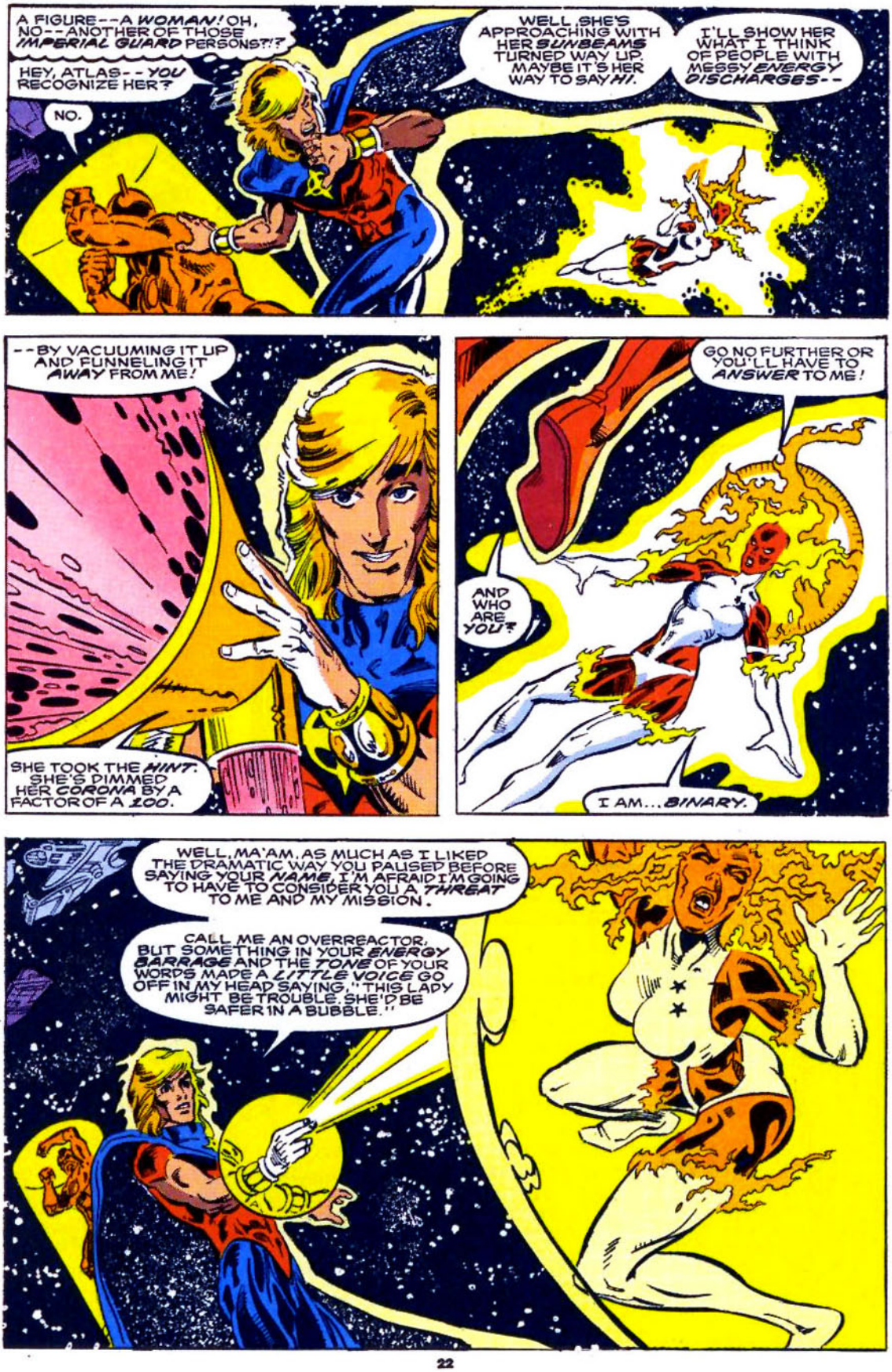
YES, QUASAR.

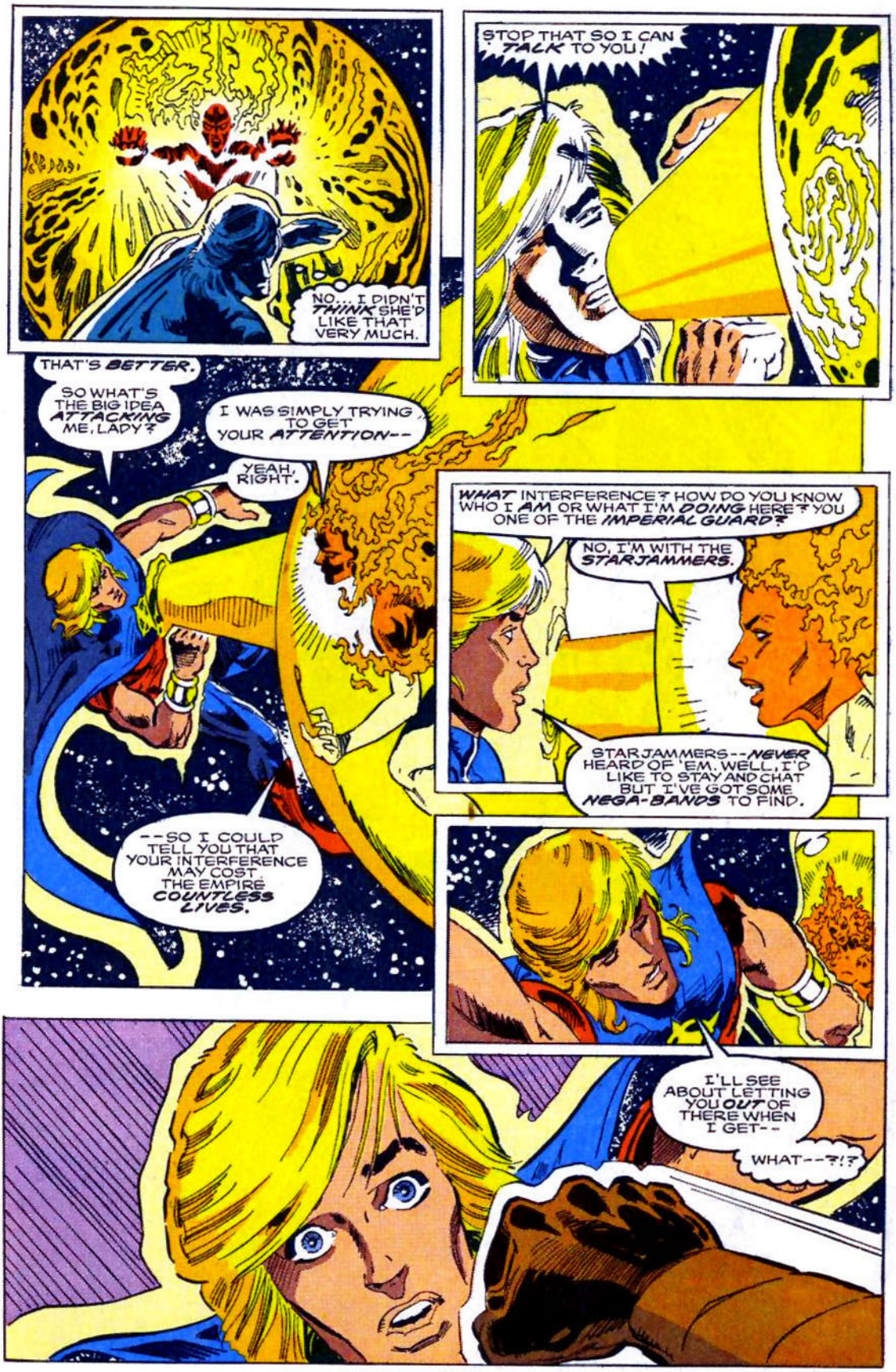
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN SOME SORT OF STARSHIP BUILDING YARD OR SOMETHING. WELL, THANKS, EPOCH. YOU REALLY CAME THROUGH FOR ME ON THIS ONE.

I GUESS FINDING UNUSUAL ENERGY-EMITTING INANIMATE OBJECTS IS EASIER THAN THE GENERAL INFORMATION HUNTS I'VE ASKED EPOCH TO PUT HER BUDDING COSMIC SENSES TO WORK AT IN THE PAST.

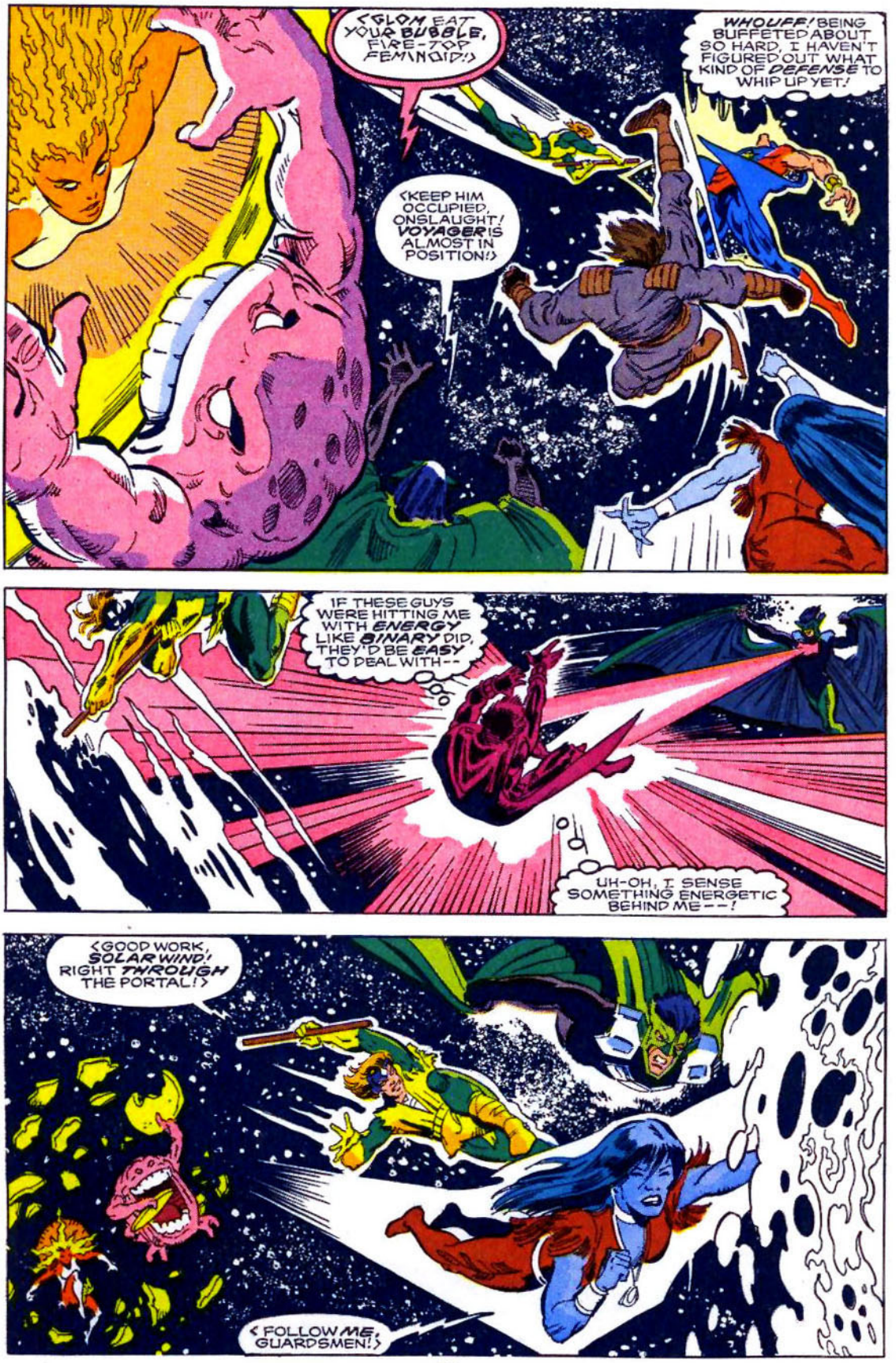
SHE ACTUALLY GOT ME AN ANSWER I COULD USE IN A USEFUL SPAN OF TIME.

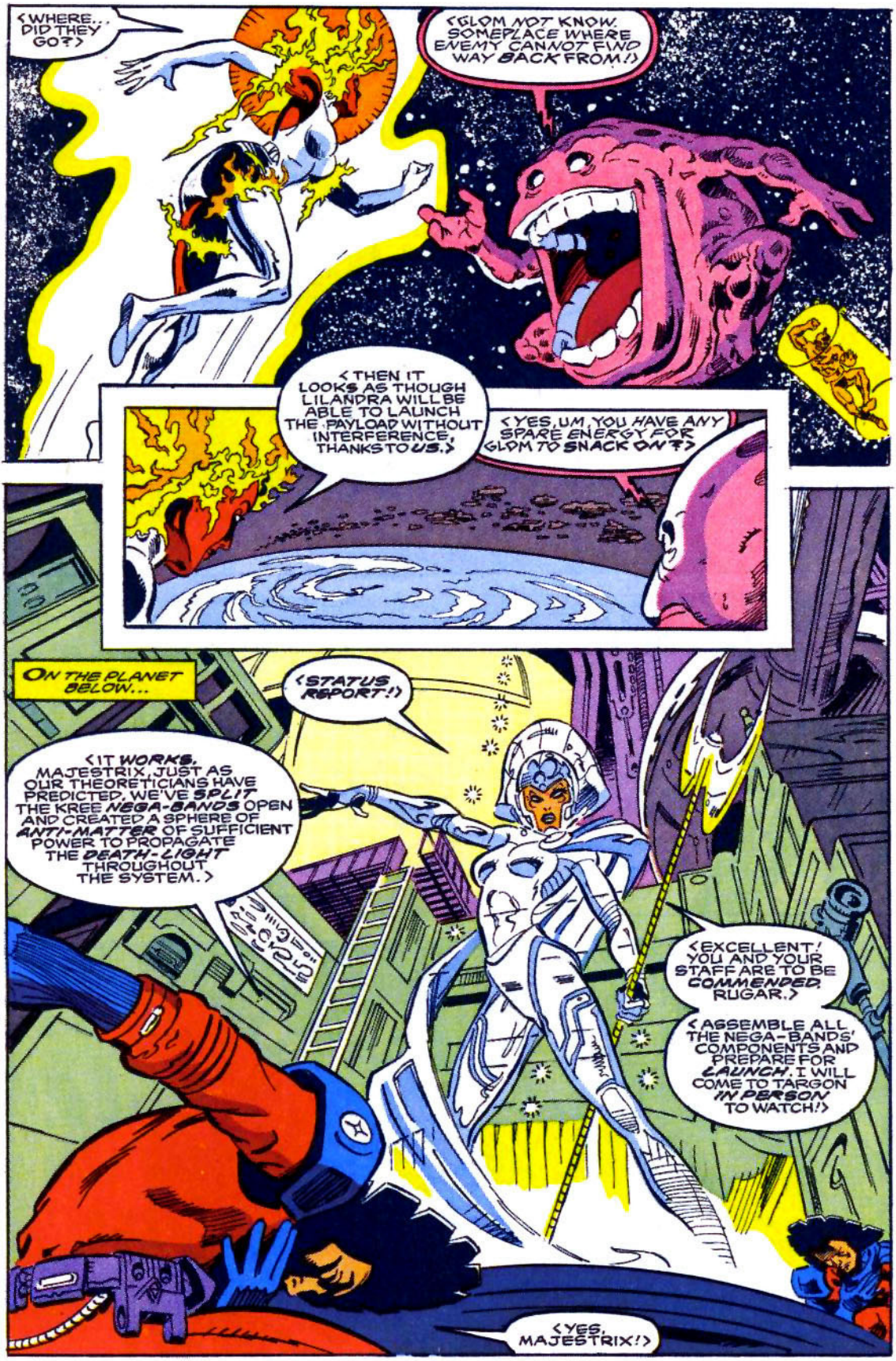

FROM HERE, THOUGH, IT'LL BE UP TO ME TO PINPOINT THE NEGA-BANDS' PRECISE LOCATION. SHOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH OF A--
--WHAT--?
A VERY SMALL, VERY HEAVY DUTY ENERGY SOURCE APPROACHING VERY RAPIDLY!
WOW! SO BRIGHT. IT'S BLINDING! WHAT IS IT?


A FIGURE--A WOMAN! OH, NO--ANOTHER OF THOSE IMPERIAL GUARD PERSONS?!?
HEY, ATLAS--YOU RECOGNIZE HER?
NO.
WELL, SHE'S APPROACHING WITH HER SUNBEAMS TURNED WAY UP. MAYBE IT'S HER WAY TO SAY HI.
I'LL SHOW HER WHAT I THINK OF PEOPLE WITH MESSY ENERGY DISCHARGES--
--BY VACUUMING IT UP AND FUNNELING IT AWAY FROM ME!
SHE TOOK THE HINT. SHE'S DIMMED HER CORONA BY A FACTOR OF A 100.
GO NO FURTHER OR YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME!
AND WHO ARE YOU?
I AM...BINARY.
WELL, MA'AM, AS MUCH AS I LIKED THE DRAMATIC WAY YOU PAUSED BEFORE SAYING YOUR NAME, I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CONSIDER YOU A THREAT TO ME AND MY MISSION.
CALL ME AN OVERREACTOR. BUT SOMETHING IN YOUR ENERGY BARRAGE AND THE TONE OF YOUR WORDS MADE A LITTLE VOICE GO OFF IN MY HEAD SAYING, "THIS LADY MIGHT BE TROUBLE. SHE'D BE SAFER IN A BUBBLE."


NO... I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D LIKE THAT VERY MUCH.
STOP THAT SO I CAN TALK TO YOU!
THAT'S BETTER.
SO WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA ATTACKING ME, LADY?
I WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO GET YOUR ATTENTION--
YEAH, RIGHT.
--SO I COULD TELL YOU THAT YOUR INTERFERENCE MAY COST THE EMPIRE COUNTLESS LIVES.
WHAT INTERFERENCE? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM OR WHAT I'M DOING HERE? YOU ONE OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD?
NO, I'M WITH THE STARJAMMERS.
STARJAMMERS--NEVER HEARD OF 'EM. WELL, I'D LIKE TO STAY AND CHAT BUT I'VE GOT SOME NEGA-BANDS TO FIND.
I'LL SEE ABOUT LETTING YOU OUT OF THERE WHEN I GET--
WHAT--?!?

NNNNGH! NEVER SAW IT COMING!
BUT HOW--? COULD ANYONE HAVE GOTTEN SO CLOSE TO ME WITHOUT DETECTION--?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY QUANTUM AURA, THAT PUNCH WOULD HAVE TAKEN MY HEAD OFF!
<A MASTERFUL BLOW AS USUAL, ONSLAUGHT.>
<NOW HOVER ASIDE--IT IS MY TURN!>
EXCELLENT, MOONDANCER-- YOU GUIDED US RIGHT TO HIM!>
<WAIT FOR GLOM-- GLOM NOT THROUGH YET!>
<FEEL THE FURY OF THE SOLAR WIND!>
<GLOM SEES BALL OF ENERGY-- GLOM HUNGRY!>
MORE IMPERIAL GUARDS? OR ARE THEY STARJAMMERS? THE SHI'AR SEEM TO BOAST ALMOST AS MANY SUPER-CHAMPIONS AS EARTH DOES!


‹GLOM EAT YOUR BUBBLE, FIRE-TOP FEMINOID!›
‹KEEP HIM OCCUPIED, ONSLAUGHT! VOYAGER'S ALMOST IN POSITION!›
WHOUFF! BEING BUFFETED ABOUT SO HARD, I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT KIND OF DEFENSE TO WHIP UP YET!
IF THESE GUYS WERE HITTING ME WITH ENERGY LIKE BINARY DID, THEY'D BE EASY TO DEAL WITH--
UH-OH, I SENSE SOMETHING ENERGETIC BEHIND ME--!
‹GOOD WORK, SOLARWIND! RIGHT THROUGH THE PORTAL!›
‹FOLLOW ME, GUARDSMEN!›


‹WHERE... DID THEY GO?›
‹GLOM NOT KNOW. SOMEPLACE WHERE ENEMY CANNOT FIND WAY BACK FROM!›
‹THEN IT LOOKS AS THOUGH LILANDRA WILL BE ABLE TO LAUNCH THE PAYLOAD WITHOUT INTERFERENCE, THANKS TO US.›
‹YES, UM, YOU HAVE ANY SPARE ENERGY FOR GLOM TO SNACK ON?›
ON THE PLANET BELOW...
‹STATUS REPORT!›
‹IT WORKS, MAJESTRIX, JUST AS OUR THEORETICIANS HAVE PREDICTED. WE'VE SPLIT THE KREE NEGA-BANDS OPEN AND CREATED A SPHERE OF ANTI-MATTER OF SUFFICIENT POWER TO PROPAGATE THE DEATH-LIGHT THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM.›
‹EXCELLENT! YOU AND YOUR STAFF ARE TO BE COMMENDED, RUGAR.›
‹ASSEMBLE ALL THE NEGA-BANDS' COMPONENTS AND PREPARE FOR LAUNCH. I WILL COME TO TARGON IN PERSON TO WATCH!›
‹YES, MAJESTRIX!›

〈AND SHARRA HELP ME IF THE DEATHS OF BILLIONS OF KREE WEIGH UPON MY CONSCIENCE!
ELSEWHERE...
BLOWN THROUGH A PORTAL... NOT SURE WHERE I AM... BUT THE KUNG FU KID AND HIS CRAZY COHORTS SEEM TO HAVE FOLLOWED ME.
I'VE HAD IT WITH BEING HIS BOP BAG--I'M GOING TO ARMOR UP LIKE I DID LAST TIME I SPARRED WITH THIS GUY'S TEAMMATES.*
*LAST ISSUE.
AIIIEEH! GOTCHA.
〈ONSLAUGHT! BACK HERE! WE'RE MOVING OUT!〉
NGUH! MISTER BLOWHARD'S NAILED ME AGAIN!
--AND NOW I'M CAROMING OFF ALL THESE ASTEROIDS!
BOY, JUST WHEN I THINK I'VE GOT MY JOB DOWN PAT, JOKERS LIKE THESE GUYS COME ALONG!

OKAY, IMPS-- I'M MAD NOW! NO MORE FUNNY BUSINESS!

HUH? THEY'RE-- OH, NO! THAT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF TELEPORTATIONAL AFTER EFFECT!

THEY UP AND SPLIT ON ME!

THE SAME TRICK I PULLED ON STAR-BRITCHES A FEW HOURS AGO!

UNLIKE THE STARGATE, THIS WAS AN ARTIFICIAL TELEPORTAL-- NOW THAT IT'S CLOSED, THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO GO THROUGH IT OR EVEN TRACE ENERGY SIGNATURES THROUGH IT!

WELL, I BETTER FIGURE OUT WHERE I AM AND QUANTUM JUMP BACK. I WAS SUPPOSED TO RECOVER THE NEGA-BANDS!

EPOCH? QUASAR. HEY. I'VE BEEN TELEPORTED SOME PLACE AND I'M NOT SURE WHERE.

COULD YOU USE YOUR COSMIC AWARENESS TO TELL ME WHERE IN THE UNIVERSE I AM?

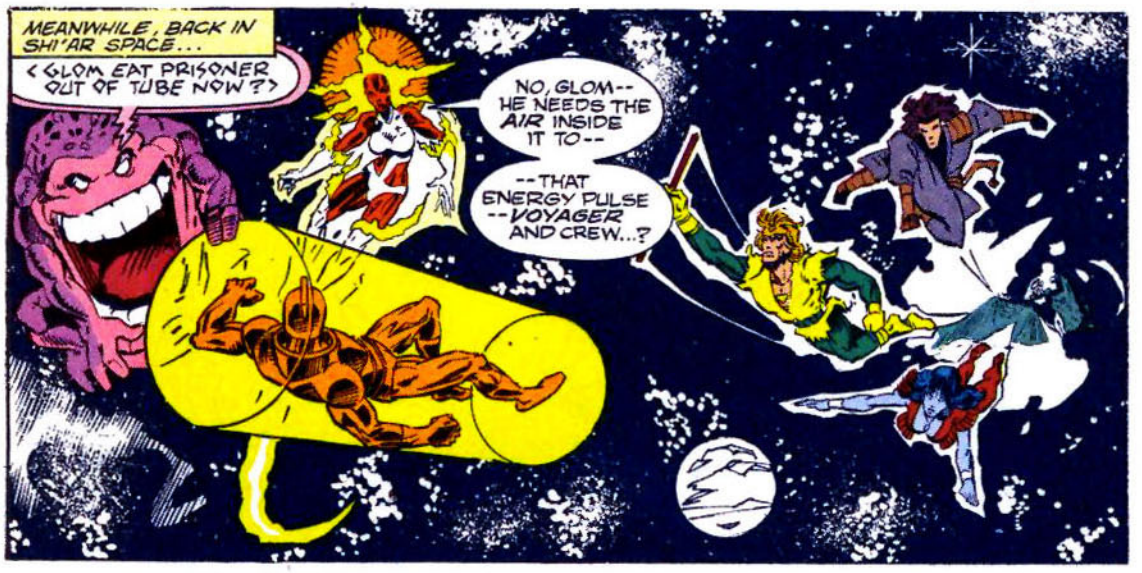
DO YOU KNOW WHAT GALAXY YOU'RE IN?

THE SHI'AR, I THINK.

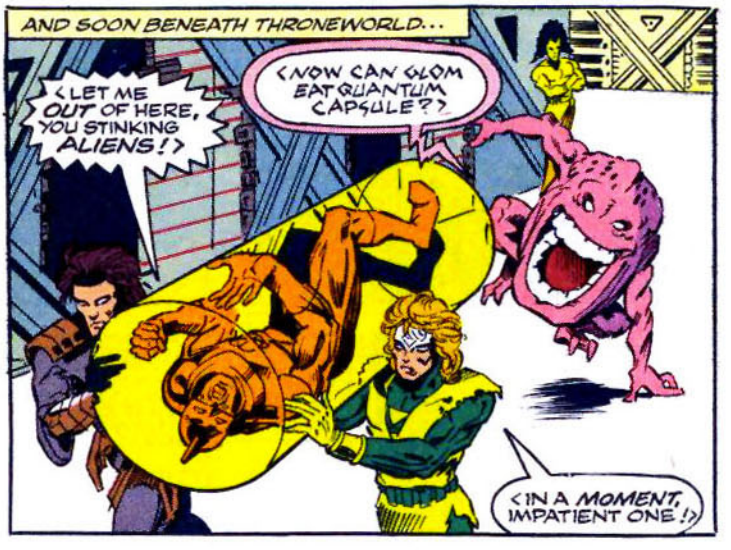
JUST A MINUTE PLEASE. LET ME TRY TO IDENTIFY YOUR POSITION FROM THE CONFIGURATION OF STARS IN THE SKY.

COULD YOU PLEASE DO IT AS FAST AS YOU CAN? I DON'T THINK I HAVE A LOT OF TIME.

I'VE GOT THIS AWFUL FEELING THAT THE SHI'AR ARE PLANNING TO DO SOMETHING TERRIBLE WITH THE NEGA-BANDS!

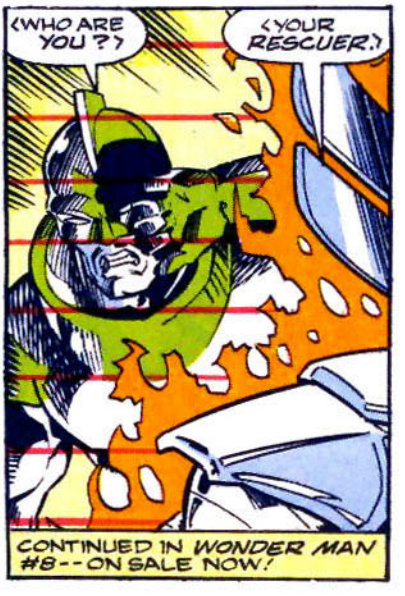

MEANWHILE, BACK IN SHI'AR SPACE...
<GLOM EAT PRISONER OUT OF TUBE NOW?>
NO, GLOM--HE NEEDS THE AIR INSIDE IT TO--
--THAT ENERGY PULSE --VOYAGER AND CREW...?

THAT EARTHMAN HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF. THE LAUNCH MAY PROCEED WITHOUT HIS INTERFERENCE.
LET'S TAKE THE KREE TO THE SURFACE. A PRISONER OF WAR MAY STILL PROVE USEFUL.


AND SOON BENEATH THRONEWORLD...
<LET ME OUT OF HERE, YOU STINKING ALIENS!>
<NOW CAN GLOM EAT QUANTUM CAPSULE?>
<IN A MOMENT, IMPATIENT ONE!>
7

AND... <I'VE BEEN A PAWN IN THIS WAR--A PRISONER--FOR FAR TOO LONG. I MUST FREE MYSELF SO I CAN LEARN WHAT SINISTER PURPOSE THEY ARE PUTTING THE KREE MEGA-BANDS TO.>
<IF ONLY I COULD CONTACT MY BELOVED DR. MINERVA THROUGH OUR EMPATHIC LINK! I KNOW WE ARE GALAXIES APART, BUT PERHAPS HER EXTRASENSORY ABILITIES ARE TRANS-SPATIAL!>

WITHIN MINUTES...
<WHAT'S--HAPPENING?!?>
<A FIGURE! MINERVA--?>


<WHO ARE YOU?>
<YOUR RESCUER.>
CONTINUED IN WONDER MAN #8--ON SALE NOW!